

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage email interception method, comprising the steps of:

receiving an email message;

querying ~~the a~~ receiving number corresponding to the email message from an array according to ~~the~~ related information of the email message;

rejecting the email message if the receiving number is higher than a first setting value and the email conforms to email characteristics recorded in a specific email record; and

recording the email characteristics corresponding to the email message into the specific email record if the receiving number is higher than a second setting value and an email address of the recipient of the email message does not appear in at least one recipient field of the email message;

accepting the email message first and then deleting the email message if the receiving number is higher than the second setting value and the email address of the recipient of the email message does not appear in the recipient field of the email message; and

accepting and forwarding the email message to a specific mailbox if the receiving number is higher than a third setting value and the email address of the recipient of the email message does not appear in the recipient field of the email message.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further recording the related information of the email message into the array.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the array is a first-in-first-out array.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the related information comprises the subject of the email message.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the related information comprises the text information of the email message.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the email characteristics comprise the network address of the host sending the email message.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the email characteristics comprise the sender information.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the sender information comprise the name of the sender.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the sender information comprise the email address of the sender.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the email characteristics comprise the subject.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the recipient field comprises the field of direct recipients.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the recipient field comprises the field of copy recipients.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the recipient field comprises the field of hidden copy recipients.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first setting value is larger than the second setting value, and the second setting value is larger than the third setting value.